

Public Issues Report 1st Quarter 2008

Public File 2008 – 1st Quarter

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January 1

The feds are handing out 40 bucks to low tech t-v owners to help bring them out of the Stone Age.

Researchers say disrupting a person while they're in "deep sleep mode" damages the body's ability to regulate blood sugar levels which raises the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

January 2

The study in the Journal of the American Medical Association shows minorities are less likely to get pain meds than whites.

The CDC says nearly two million people develop infections "while" being treated in American hospitals each year. Some hospitals are considering replacing their tables, counters and utensils with copper ones

January 3

France bans smoking in any bar, dance club, restaurant, hotel, casino or café with a \$662 fine.

January 4

Rates on 30-year mortgages have dropped to six percent...the lowest level since December 6th.

The stomach flu can be passed from one person to another thru contact with commonly shared office items

January 7

Cars that drive and park themselves may be on the market within just 10 years

Unemployment has hit a two year high... climbing to five percent in December.

That's the worst shape the labor market's been in since post-hurricane Katrina.

January 8

New research suggests that a 90 minute snooze might help your long term memory.

A new study says the theory that vaccines can lead to autism in children is false.

January 9

People who drink moderately, exercise, don't smoke and eat five daily servings of fruits and vegetables live an average of fourteen years longer than people who don't do those things.

Women who are suffering from the blues lose their sense of smell, and may overcompensate by using more perfume.

January 10

The latest edition of Air Jordan shoes will include recycled rubber.

More than 3 million people between the ages of 12 and 25 have used cough and cold medicine to get high.

January 11

The drug Enbrel is used for arthritis but has been shown to reverse the symptoms of Alzheimer's "in minutes through injection into the spine.

The homeland security department announces new rules for stricter ID's for drivers born after December 1st 1964.

January 14

The big apple saw a record number of tourists last year and spent an estimated 28-billion dollars in the city.

A process called De-Celluarization has scientists washing away existing cells from the hearts of dead rats and injected them with heart cells from newborn rats allowing for their heart to beat again.

January 15

Rochester Meat Company in Minnesota is recalling 188-thousand pounds of ground beef.

January 16

The F-D-A announced food made from healthy cloned animals and their offspring is perfectly safe to eat.

January 17

The FDA is warning parents not to use over the counter cold and cough medicines for little ones under two.

Washington, DC could join San Francisco to become the second U.S. city to "require" mandatory sick leave at all businesses.

January 18

A new "University of Washington" study shows "protein" does the best job of keeping a hunger hormone.

A combination of five gene variants increases the risk of prostate cancer.

January 21

Only 27 percent of us are smiling about the future of the country.

Abortion rates drop.

January 22

Caffeine is linked to miscarriages.

January 23

Toymaker Ty Incorporated refuses to pull their Jammin' Jenna dolls from store shelves saying it meets "federal standards."

People who survive bouts with E-coli and other food borne illnesses today...may suffer kidney damage, arthritis, and high blood pressure in the future.

January 24

A Merrill Lynch report released yesterday predicts the housing market will continue to crumble for the next "two" years!

Tuna sushi from 20 different Manhattan restaurants tested by the NY Times contained dangerously high levels of mercury.
Women aren't getting mammograms because of their insurance co-pay.

January 25

The C-D-C says the average adult in the u-s should be protected from flu, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis a and b, whooping cough and tetanus.
Birth control pills can prevent ovarian cancer even after you stop taking them!
Small pet turtles caused 103 cases of Salmonella last year.

January 28

Lead exposure leads to poorer performance in verbal, visual memory and language abilities
The group, Public Citizen, wants the Food and Drug Administration to increase its warnings about using Botox because of serious reactions, including deaths, linked to the drug.

January 29

Researchers in Korea are working on a flu vaccine you drop a liquid under your tongue.
Kids cough & cold medicines putting them in the ER more every year.

January 30

The number of home foreclosures jumped 79 percent in 2007.
Hand sanitizers are still causing problem because of the germs left on rings and in fingernails.
The job, the kids, the spouse, or the debt taking its toll on your mental health isn't making people miserable...just "middle age."

January 31

Speed cameras change a driver's behavior.
Underage military servicemen and women in South Carolina should be allowed to drink alcohol.

February 1

Scratching activates areas of the brain associated with memory and pleasure, while at the same time... suppressing areas associated with pain and emotions.
Epilepsy drugs could increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors.

February 4

Mississippi is making it illegal for restaurants to serve obese patrons.
Chemicals used to create the fragrances in baby products may cause reproductive problems.

February 5

Drinking coffee, using mobile phones or having breast implants is unlikely to cause cancer, but smoking, booze and sun exposure are still listed in the "cancer" column!

February 6

The thrill of the office fling "raised energy levels and led to better professional capacity."
2007 was the second-worst year for on-time flights.

February 7

Rebate checks in limbo after senate republicans blocked a bid by democrats to add 44 billion dollars to the plan to help the unemployed and businesses.

February 8

Governments around the world collect more than 200 billion in tobacco taxes every year but spend very little to control it

Science magazine says ethanol could actually increase greenhouse emissions hurting the environment.

February 11

Forbes.com has ranked Boulder as the smartest city in the U.S.

February 12

By 20-50 non-Hispanic whites will be the minority in the U.S.

A new study says consuming low calorie drinks may increase the risk of putting on weight.

February 13

The Pew Research Center found that 42 percent of 18 to 29 year olds get their political "news" from the internet, that's the highest percentage for any news source.

New research suggests that the best "catches" in dating land may be the worst choices in the long-run.

February 14

Valentine's Day e-greetings unleash the Storm Worm virus that turns your computer into a spam machine, helping to send millions of email that try to infect other computers.

February 15

143 million pounds of frozen beef is being recalled from a California slaughterhouse that's under investigation for animal abuse.

February 18

The C-D-C says the current vaccine only covers about 40 percent of the flu viruses making the rounds this season. This week 44 states reported widespread flu activity, up from 31 last week.

February 19

Amtrak will start random searches and post armed guards on platforms and on the trains. The new security measures are on deck first for the northeast lines between Washington and Boston.

Under its new plan, an independent third party... not the toy companies themselves... will keep an eye on companies making sure they meet safety standards.

February 20

The American Cancer Society reports cancer deaths rose by 54-hundred in 2005 after the number of cancer deaths dropped so much in 03 "and" 04.\

Campbell's soups are getting a sodium makeover and cutting back on the amount.

February 21

Researchers found that those who trimmed calories and ate more whole-grains had an easier time shedding that extra layer of tummy fat.

Women's waistlines and blood sugar levels have jumped over the past decade and discovering a "huge" leap in the number of strokes in middle-aged women in recent years... triple the amount.

February 22

Kids who have less salt tend to drink fewer sodas which could reduce their risk for obesity, high-blood pressure, and heart attacks later in life.

February 25

A new government report says only about 1 in 4 Americans know the warning signs of a heart attack and what to do first.

February 26

By 20-17, we'll be shelling out more than 4 trillion dollars on healthcare... an increase of three times the rate of inflation.

The 2009 Nissan Murano was the only vehicle in the group of nine mid-size SUV's to get the highest rating in front, side and rear crash tests. Hummer H-3 was the worst.

February 27

75 percent of clinically depressed people can and do get better with a combination of treatment approaches as opposed to just using antidepressants alone.

February 28

Mayor Michael Bloomberg unveiled a plan that would turn New York City's 10-thousand black taxis into hybrids over the next five years.

February 29

The Consumer Product Safety Commission says that between 2002 and 2004, nearly 100 children suffocated when lying face down on pillows or other bedding.

March 3

Mother Russia has a new president this morning. Vladimir Putin's Protégé Dmitry Medvedev. This means Putin's policies of trying to make Russia a world powerhouse and keeping a tight grip on society at home will continue

It's down to the wire for Senators Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton ahead of tomorrow's primaries and caucuses.

March 4

Winter weather is taking its toll as residents in the north head out to the polls for their favorite candidate.

March 5

Clinton has narrowed the gap in the race for the white house

The senate just passed new laws that will pump up funding for the consumer safety commission and toughen the penalties against companies that make and release dangerous toys.

March 6

Cops in New York City have shut down part of Times Square after witnesses say there was an explosion in the area

Oil hit another record yesterday at 105 dollars a barrel. One reason why they're so high is because OPEC refused to increase oil production. So what does that mean for you? High oil prices now means High gas prices next month.

March 7

The feds are trying to connect the dots between letters sent to Capitol Hill and the explosion at a military recruiting office in Times Square. There was a picture of the recruiting station with the words "we did it" in one of the letters.

March 10

NASA suits say it'll be the longest ever visit to the international space station. Endeavour and its seven-member crew will blast off tomorrow night to deliver the first installment of Japan's space station lab. Kibo. In all, five space walks are planned.

Paramount Pictures will become the first major Hollywood studio to make clips from thousands of its movies available for use on the internet..

March 11

New York governor Eliot Spitzer has had other nicknames but, "Client 9" could be the one he regrets most. Spitzer yesterday apologized following accusations that he paid more than \$4,000 for a call girl in Washington.

March 12

A WSPA reporter was covering a murder case and was standing right across the street from the victim's home. The victim's daughter charged across the street and attacked the reporter.

NASA will be doing a "drive by" around one of Saturn's moons. The unmanned ship will collect ice, dust and gas from the geyser.

March 13

Safety experts say they may have found a way to raise your chances of surviving an s-u-v accident by more than half! They say the stronger the roof, the safer the passengers are during a rollover crash.

March 14

Prosecutors have now dropped the child endangerment charges against an Illinois mother who left her 2-year old in a car.

A local New York artist decided to take out his frustration with the cities governor by propping his political artwork outside the Sachs Building in New York.

March 17

In a rare weekend move the Federal Reserve announced new ways to help keep the credit crisis from spreading. The central bank approved a cut to its lending rate for banks.

New York lieutenant governor David Paterson will be sworn in today as the state's 55th governor. Paterson is also the nation's first legally blind chief executive to serve more than a few days.

March 18

All eyes will be on the Supreme Court this morning as it tries to define the constitutional, "right to keep and bear arms". The court is trying to solve a dispute over a 32-year old hand gun ban in Washington, D.C.

March 19

The Supreme Court has declared that Americans have a right to own guns but government has a right to regulate those firearms.

Five years ago today the United States military led an invasion in Iraq.

March 20

A foot of rain has fallen in sections of southern Illinois, where two bodies were found after floodwaters swept a pickup truck off a rural road. Five deaths are linked to the flooding. In Missouri five people were killed in a highway accident.

March 21

The feds are hoping to help people living in Iraq and the US's image with a war victim's fund. The US agency for international development will oversee the 40 million dollar-project.

March 24

Flooding continues in Arkansas where the amount of damage and rain has a very real possibility of turning this serious of storms into a historic period of flooding in the state. A Wisconsin real estate agent was found dead in a home that she was apparently showing last week. No cause of death has yet been found.

March 25

Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is being asked to step down after he was charged with perjury for lying about an affair with his top Aide. Senator Hillary Clinton is coming under fire for statements she made about a goodwill trip to Bosnia while she was first lady.

March 26

Investors are waiting this morning for the release of a report by the Fed which will give a formal report on the state of the economy.

March 27

President Bush believes we will come out of this economy slump stronger than ever however experts predict gas will cost 4 bucks a gallon by Memorial Day. Variety magazine reports the slowing of the economy combined with fall out from the writers' strike is forcing many studios to tighten their budgets.

March 28

Five former US secretaries of state say they want the next president to close GITMO and start talks with Iran. The secretaries which include Colin Powell all say closing the facility in Cuba would help America's Image. The former chiefs of American diplomacy met in Athens, Georgia at a conference aimed at giving the next president some bipartisan foreign policy advice.

March 31

The Olympic torch is off and running across China this morning after the lighting ceremony in Beijing. Chinese president Hu Jintao presided over the relighting of the Olympic torch to show how important the Olympics are to China's rising economic and political power.